THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A three pronge strategy has been evolved to intensify exploration in the country during the 17th Plan, as follows:—

— Intensifying exploratory activities by ONGC and OIL.

— Intensive integrated exploration programmes in selected basins with Soviet assistance.

— Offering selected blocks in offshore areas for exploration by foreign oil companies.

Tapti Gas Project

41. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tapti Gas Project in the Western Coast has been lying pending since long with Government for clearance;

(b) since when the project has been lying pending;

(c) by when the project is likely to be cleared; and

(d) what are the reasons for the delay?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) to (d) A feasibility report was prepared by ONGC in November 1985 which was updated in September 1986 with revised data of reserves and revised capital outlay. Consideration of the project has been pending capital outlay. Consideration view of the delay in the offtake of gas from the HBJ pipeline and the higher availabilty of the associated gas from Bombay High.

Amount spent by ONGC for exploration work

42. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by O.N.G.C. for exploration work for oil and gas in Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan so far;

(b) the number of wells in both the States where oil and gas have been struck; and

(c) the estimated amount likely to be spent by O.N.G.C. during the year 1988-89 for the purpose in both the States?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Total amount spent by ONGC on exploratory drilling in Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan upto March, 1987 was as under:—

	Rs. crores
Andhra Pradesh	160.50
Rajasthan	42.85

(b) Oil/gas were discovered in twelve wells in Andhra Pradesh and gas in 8 wells in Rajasthan.

(c) Andhra Pradesh. Rs. 79.20 crores Rajasthan: Rs. 32.30 crores.

Prices of price controlled products

43. SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has increased the prices of a number of price controlled products after the announcement of DPCO, 1987;

(b) the names of the medicines where prices have been increased by more than 20 per cent alongwith the previous price present price and percentage increase in each case;